

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the **PATENT APPLICATION** of:

Stone et al.

Application No.: 10/566,938

Confirmation No. 1160

Filed: February 2, 2006

For: TRIPLE LAYER INDUSTRIAL FABRIC
FOR THROUGH-AIR DRYING PROCESS

Group: 1794

Examiner: Andrew T. Piziali

Our File: AJF-2.204.0US

Date: April 9, 2008

REPLY UNDER 37 CFR §1.111

Mail Stop AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Reply is being submitted in response to the Office Action dated October 11, 2007, and is being submitted along with an appropriate request for an Extension of Time.

Please amend the application without prejudice as noted in detail below.

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior listings.

1. (Currently amended) A triple layer industrial fabric having a paper side (PS) layer and a machine side (MS) layer comprising polymeric warp and weft yarns woven to a repeat pattern wherein:

- (i) all of the warp yarns are arranged as vertically stacked pairs;
- (ii) all of the weft yarns comprise pairs of intrinsic weft binder yarns, each having a first and second member each of which contributes to the structure of both the PS and the MS layers of the fabric and binds together the PS and MS layers; [[and]]
- (iii) the first and second members of each pair of the intrinsic weft binder yarns together form a single combined forms an unbroken weft path in both the PS layer and the MS layer whereby when either the first or second member passes from the PS layer to the MS layer, the other member of the pair passes from the MS layer to the PS layer at an exchange point located between at least one common pair of warp yarns; and
- (iv) at least one of the PS layer and the MS layer is woven to a plain weave pattern.

2. (Currently amended) A triple layer industrial fabric as claimed in Claim 1, wherein the PS layer has an exposed PS surface and the MS layer has an exposed MS surface; and wherein

- (i) in a first portion of the repeat pattern, the first member is exposed in the PS surface over a ~~preselected~~ number (N1) of PS warp yarns while the second member is exposed in the MS surface over a ~~preselected~~ number (N2) of MS warp yarns; [[and]]
- (ii) in a second portion of the repeat pattern the first member is exposed in the MS surface over a ~~preselected~~ number (M1) of MS warp yarns while the second member is exposed in the PS surface over a ~~preselected~~ number (M2) of PS warp yarns; and
- (iii) relationships between values of N1, N2, M1 and M2 are selected from
 - (a) the value of N1 is equal to the value of N2, and the value of M1 is equal to

the value of M2;

(b) the value of N1 is equal to the value of M2, and the value of N2 is equal to the value of M1; and

(c) the values of each of N1, N2, M1 and M2 are equal.

3. -5. (canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A triple layer industrial fabric as claimed in claim 1 wherein for each unit area, viewed substantially perpendicularly to the PS surface of the PS layer or the MS surface of the MS layer, an open space projected through the fabric ~~after a heatsetting process~~ has an area in a range of 35% to 50% of the unit area.

7. (Original) A triple layer industrial fabric as claimed in claim 1 wherein the fabric has an air permeability in a range of 800 to 1200 cubic feet per minute per square foot.

8. (Currently amended) A triple layer industrial fabric as claimed in claim 7 wherein the fabric ~~after a heatsetting process~~ has an air permeability in a range of 900 to 1100 cubic feet per minute per square foot.

9. (Original) A triple layer industrial fabric as claimed in claim 1 wherein the polymeric yarns are made from at least one material selected from the group polyetheretherketone, polyphenylene sulphide, polyethylene terephthalate, and polycyclohexamethalyne terephthalate, acid modified.

10. (Original) A triple layer industrial fabric as claimed in claim 1 wherein the PS surface of the PS layer of the fabric has a polymeric resinous coating.